

of Yugoslavia where citizens do not have freedom of movement. People from Priboj and Pljevlja are forbidden from returning to their villages from which they were expelled.

Many Bosniac citizens have been sacked from their jobs with state companies, leading to a serious humanitarian situation in the country.

V.

I can tell you today that President Ugljanin will return to Sanjak before the end of this month. When he does, we are afraid he could be arrested by Yugoslav authorities. This must not be allowed to happen.

We appeal to Members of the U.S. Congress and parliamentarians around the world who are committed to political freedom and liberty to join us in an unprecedented demonstration of support for democracy. We invite Members of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus to come to Sanjak, to accompany President Ugljanin as he returns, and to lend their opposition to the antidemocratic Yugoslav regime at this critical time.

We encourage U.S. and international journalists to shine the revealing spotlight of media coverage on the Yugoslav autocratic, repressive and undemocratic regime.

We need your help, and we need it now.

VI.

There are other peoples in the Balkans who have suffered tremendous hardships and atrocities, confirmed by dozens of investigations and reports by officials such as Tadeusz Mazowiecki, former U.N. Special Rapporteur for human rights in former Yugoslavia, and his successor, Mrs. Elisabeth Rhen. Reports from the U.N. Human Rights Commission, U.S. State Department, Amnesty International, Helsinki Watch, and many others have documented the Serbian-Montenegrin reign of terror and human rights violations.

In 1991, the Muslim National Council of Sanjak encouraged all young men from Sanjak and other parts of Yugoslavia not to participate in the war in Slovenia and Croatia. We have chosen a path of peaceful resistance to achieve a special status or autonomy within Yugoslavia. So far, the international community has not addressed our problem, in spite of the fact that we have chosen peaceful means to achieve that goal. That is a bad message for the future.

While we accept, if not fully understand, why the Dayton Agreements focused solely on the situation in Bosnia, now is the time to look beyond Bosnia to the range of ethnic problems that will cause continued unrest in the Balkans until they are satisfactorily addressed.

In Dayton, the United States assumed a leadership role toward seeking peace in the Balkans. We applaud that leadership, and ask that you now take the next steps to begin soon after Saturday's elections. On the agenda should be a special status for Sanjak which recognizes the rights and freedoms of our people.

We seek:

Natural equality within former Yugoslavia;
A special status (autonomy) as a mechanism to achieve national equality;

The maintenance of the "outer wall" of sanctions in Serbia-Montenegro until the status of Sanjak is resolved;

Return of the OSCE permanent mission to Sanjak to help establish the necessary conditions for observing elections.

An end to political persecution such as that in Novi Pazar, our capital, where our elected political representatives have no freedom of movement. Their passports have been confiscated by Serbian police, making it impossible for them to travel. They are forced to come to so-called "informative

talks" with the Serb authorities during which they are abused and terrorized.

U.S. pressure on the War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague to charge those who destroyed 51 villages and kidnapped and killed Bosniac people in Sanjak.

VII.

Since 1991, the world has witnessed in the Balkans the worst crimes against humanity since World War II. At the War Crimes Tribunal meeting in The Hague is demonstrating, the overwhelming preponderance of atrocities have been committed by the Serbs, in quest of a "Great Serbia." With the Bosnian elections Saturday a key benchmark in implementation of the Dayton agreement, the future is far from settled.

Indeed, the elections with the expected fraud, manipulation, intimidation and incompleteness will most likely perpetuate the confusion and fall short of moving toward a unified Bosnia.

The Bosnia people of Sanjak have endured a lot, and while we are prepared to negotiate our fate in good faith, we call on the United States of America, the one champion of human rights and political freedom in the world, to come to our aid.

Thank you, again, for providing us this opportunity to appear before you today. We are prepared to respond to your questions.

IN HONOR OF HELEN L. SEVERNS

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Helen L. Severns, who passed away May 2, 1996.

Born and raised in Decatur, IL, Helen Severns was a pillar of the community who served in countless ways up to the very day of her passing.

The daughter of the late Russell Waggoner and Goldie Waggoner Watson, Helen Severns was an active member of the Concordia Lutheran Church. She was a tireless volunteer for the Retired Senior Citizen Program, Meals-On-Wheels and other civic groups, including being given a lifetime membership award from the Parent-Teachers Association.

Being a political volunteer was perhaps the most colorful thread she wove into the fabric of her hometown. Helen Severns began her remarkable career when she served as Democratic election judge from 1972 to 1976. She was a precinct committeewoman from 1976 to 1992. She coordinated Macon County for Senator PAUL SIMON, was a member of the Independent Democratic Women's Organization, served as cochair of the Illinois Electoral College in 1992 and represented Illinois as an elector to President Clinton's inauguration in 1993.

Despite all of these lofty achievements, Helen's greatest joy was when her daughter won her first State Senate race. I have been honored to serve in the Illinois State Senate with Senator Penny Severns and to share the responsibility of dealing with the issues important to our many mutual constituents. With Penny and Helen Severns, the apple did not fall far from the tree.

Helen Severns is survived by her husband, Donald, her sons Donald Severns, Jr. and

Rodney Severns, and her daughters Patty Severns Love and Penny Severns. She is dearly missed, but we are comforted by her memory and inspired by her legacy.

LEO BALCER INDUCTED INTO THE MICHIGAN POLKA MUSIC HALL OF FAME

HON. DICK CHRYSLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

Mr. CHRYSLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Leo A. Balcer.

Leo A. Balcer was born in Bay City, MI, in 1932. Keeping with a family tradition of music, Leo became a first-rate accordion player. I am pleased to witness Leo Balcer become the newest member of the Michigan Polka Music Hall of Fame.

From playing with the "Melody Makers" in Bay City St. Stanislaus High School, Leo continued his musical career in the U.S. Air Force in 1952. His dance bands were fabulous entertainment, and were competitive in band contests in the United States and abroad.

After graduating from Michigan State University in 1960, Leo and his family settled in the Lansing area. Soon, Leo and his seven piece band became a cornerstone of the mid-Michigan music scene. Leo has brought joy to thousands of people as he led his band to restaurants, bars, dance clubs, and community events.

Leo's career has not been confined to the United States. Along with performing competitively in Libya while in the Air Force, Leo has performed twice in Austria at the International Polkafest.

I salute the musical accomplishments of Leo Balcer, and commend him for his years of dedicated entertainment to the people of Michigan and around the world. In the words of our Polish forefathers, "gratulacje!"

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT OF 1996

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, this replacement bill contains an amendment which was meant to be incorporated into H.R. 3244, the District of Columbia Economic Recovery Act of 1996. Only because of the rush to get H.R. 3244 in on April 15, 1996, income tax day, was it omitted from the bill. This amendment is not an unusual provision. As is often the case with a bill which strives for particular effects, this amendment provides a mechanism to measure those effects. The primary importance of this amendment is to provide for course corrections, if necessary. Because no bill of this kind has been attempted before, unintended consequences could arise and changes may be needed. The data the Treasury will provide will alert Congress of any need for changes or improvements in the bill based on actual experience.